



CHALLENGE 1

Be a Power Saver!

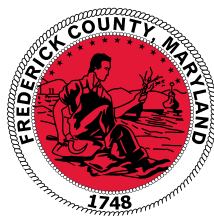
POWER SAVER H A N D B O O K



**Frederick County Office of
Environmental Sustainability**
Ensuring Our County's Future

A sustainable community starts at home . . .





Frederick County Green Homes Challenge Power Saver Handbook

Frederick Board of County Commissioners

2010 – 2014

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Janice Wiles

Frederick County Office of Environmental Sustainability (OES)

Hilari Varnadore, Director
Lisa Orr, Project Manager, Power Saver Handbook and Green Homes Challenge Initiative

Winchester Hall 12 East Church Street Frederick, Maryland 21701
Phone: 301-600-7414 Fax: 301-600-1050
www.SustainableFrederickCounty.org



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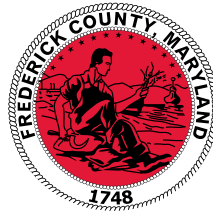
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A Message from the Chairman of the Frederick County Sustainability Commission

Dear Frederick County Residents,

Thank you for taking the Green Homes Challenge and working toward Power Saver Certification! Taking action today to become more resource and energy efficient at home not only saves energy and money, but has lasting benefits to our community, environment and the lives of our children and grandchildren. So, thank you for making this important decision.

As Frederick County residents ourselves, the 13-member Sustainability Commission has committed to a 100% participation rate in the Green Homes Challenge Power Saver initiative. We take our role seriously as community leaders in sustainability and hope you will join us along the way!

This year, we adopted a Work Plan that forwards goals related to climate, energy and the environment. Our goals related to the Green Homes Challenge are to: (1) reduce energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions by decreasing the community's overall reliance on fossil fuels and (2) enhance the energy performance and resource efficiency of our communities and associated building stock.

The Green Homes Challenge Initiative not only implements these goals, but also involves Frederick County residents in a fun, participatory process that moves beyond awareness into action!

Donald N. Briggs, Chairman

The Frederick County Sustainability Commission was established by Resolution No. 09-02 to advance and accelerate the adoption of measurable strategies that solve environmental problems, protect critical natural resources, and strengthen our social and economic health now and in the future.



Green Homes Challenge Overview

What is the Green Homes Challenge?

The Green Homes Challenge is a Frederick County initiative that guides, rewards, and recognizes households for saving energy, adopting green lifestyle practices, and using renewable energy.

Three corresponding Challenges make up the overall Green Homes Challenge.

Challenge 1: Be a Power Saver!

Challenge 2: Be a Green Leader!

Challenge 3: Be a Renewable Star!



Is the Green Homes Challenge a good fit for my household?

Are you concerned about:

- Rising energy costs or utility bills?
- Declining quality of life for your children and grandchildren?
- The impacts of climate change or environmental degradation?
- Our national energy supply and security?

If so, it is time to turn that concern into personal action right in your own home. Your household's energy use and routine living habits do make a difference!

New technologies, government policies, and building codes may take years to generate significant outcomes, but saving energy is something all of us can do in our homes right now.

The Green Homes Challenge will support and incentivize you every step of the way! Whether you've been held back by a lack of information, financial resources, or personal motivation... whether you prefer to do-it-yourself or work with a mentor or group... whether you want to certify your home or not... the Challenge has everything you need to take action.

The three challenges are summarized on the following page.

Challenge 1: Be a Power Saver!

Save Our Energy, Bank Your Money!

Use the Power Saver Handbook to implement these energy saving actions:

- Become more power-aware at a Powerware Party!
- Conduct a Home Energy Audit.
- Make your Energy Saving Action Plan.
- Implement one audit-recommended energy-saving project.
- Use online tools to analyze your home's energy use.
- Register with www.earthaid.net/frederickcounty to track energy use and earn rewards for savings.

Benefits

- Take advantage of free Watt Watchers home energy audits and rebates for improving energy efficiency.
- Earn rewards from local and national businesses for your energy savings.
- Connect with others striving to save money and energy; give and receive encouragement, resources and support!
- Make your home more comfortable and valuable; enjoy energy and utility bill savings for years to come!



Challenge 2: Be a Green Leader!

Green Your Household, Protect Our Resources!

Use the Green Leader Handbook to learn about green lifestyle practices your household can implement in these categories:

- Food
- Indoors & Cleaning
- Home Office
- Waste Management
- Water Conservation
- Outdoors & Yard
- Transportation

If interested, create or join a Green Team to stay motivated and on target.

Benefits

- Reap the health benefits of a greener household.
- Connect with and motivate others to stay on the path to environmental sustainability.
- Contribute to our community's high quality of life!



Challenge 3: Be a Renewable Star!

Renew Your Energy, Clear Our Air!

Use the Renewable Star Handbook to learn how to:

- Purchase carbon off-sets,
- Buy Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) or electricity from renewable sources, or
- Install a renewable energy system in your home.
- Find out which systems are best suited and most cost-effective for your home.
- Learn about local, state and federal incentives that make installing renewable energy systems affordable.

Benefits

- Enjoy energy and utility bill savings for years to come.
- Bask in the knowledge that you're saving energy for future generations and driving the nation's energy market in a sustainable direction!

Plus . . . Incentives, Prizes and Public Recognition!



The Green Homes Challenge combines proven strategies and a structured approach to help people advance from awareness to action. Components of the Challenge include:

Outreach & Education

Powerware Parties:	Fun interactive gatherings to help people become more “power-aware.”
Green Ambassadors:	Dedicated leaders who provide resources and activities in affiliated communities and businesses.

Resources

Handbooks:	Step by step guides for each of the three Challenges, including online resources and action catalogs for improving energy efficiency, adopting environmentally friendly practices and using renewable energy.
Support:	Follow-up, support, and encouragement through one-on-one, group, or social networking interactions.
Grants:	A limited number of grants to promote the installation of residential solar photovoltaic and thermal systems by covering permitting fees and property taxes (pending funding availability).
Rebates:	Numerous rebates for home insulation and sealing, energy efficient appliances, and appliance recycling through the Allegheny Power Watt Watchers program which supports the EmPower Maryland Energy Efficiency Act.

Action

Home Assessment:	Home Energy Audits, also known as Home Performance Audits, in partnership with the Allegheny Power Watt Watchers program.
Retrofits:	Energy Saving Action Planning and retrofit implementation.
Solarize Frederick County: <i>Coming 2012-2014</i>	Solar panel cooperative purchasing program (Pending funding availability).

Tracking & Evaluation

Earth Aid:	EarthAid.net/FrederickCounty, an energy and greenhouse gas tracking, savings and reward tool.
Surveys:	Online pre- and post-surveys measuring household awareness, motivation and improvements.

Incentives & Recognition

Rewards:	Free Comprehensive Watt Watchers Home Performance Audits, gift cards, annual drawings for high-value retrofit projects, and coupons from local businesses to motivate people to take leadership roles, save energy or complete certification.
Certification:	Designations of achievement: Power Saver, Green Leader, Renewable Star for program completion.
Recognition:	Recognition ceremonies with public officials, window decals, yard signs, and interviews and media profiles for certified households (optional).

More About Certification and Recognition

Certification

Green Homes Challenge certification serves two purposes:

1. Certification motivates households to continue making improvements and reach a goal.
2. Certification also provides a way to recognize front-runner households that have already taken action.

Green Homes Challenge Certification is optional; all educational, incentive, and program components are available to all regardless of a household's interest in certification.

Households earn certification by completing steps and actions outlined in the corresponding Power Saver, Green Leader and Renewable Star Handbooks. The Handbooks serve as your step by step guide for each of the three Challenges and include online resources, links to how-to videos, and catalogs of actions you can take to green your home and your wallet! Those households that have already taken many "green homes" actions can use the Challenge Handbooks to document their actions and submit forms for certification, recognition, and prizes.

Incentives and Recognition

In addition to the financial, health, and community benefits of greener homes, once a household is certified at any level, they are eligible for recognition awards and incentive prizes that may include gift cards or drawings for high-value retrofit projects. Every certified household will have the opportunity to be recognized by public officials; they may also have opportunities for media interviews and profiling in printed publications, web pages, or even TV shows. Certified households will also receive window decals and/or yard signs that designate their certification levels and inspire others to follow their lead!

